

Glossary

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360-degree design: An architectural design that relates to all adjacent buildings, including those on the side and rear as well as those facing the building.

Acres, Gross: A measure of total land area of any lot including streets, parks and other land dedications.

Acres, Net: The gross area of a site excluding:

1. All public and private streets, and streets which provide primary and direct access to a public street.
2. Land which has been determined to be hazardous or unbuildable based on the City's grading ordinance, the Resource Conservation Overlay District, and Ordinance 197.
3. Land within any existing or planned drainage easement.
4. Schools and parks or other facilities dedicated for public use.

Affordable Housing: Housing that can be purchased or rented by a household with very low, low, or moderate income and based on a household's ability to make monthly payments necessary to obtain housing. Housing is considered affordable when a household pays less than 30% of its gross monthly income (GMI) for housing, including utilities.

Agency: The governmental entity, department, office, or administrative unit responsible for carrying out regulations.

Agricultural Preserve: Land designated for agriculture or conservation. (See "Williamson Act.")

Agriculture: Use of land for the production of food and fiber, including the growing of crops and/or the grazing of animals on natural prime or improved pasture land.

Air Pollution: Concentrations of substances found in the atmosphere which exceed naturally occurring quantities and are undesirable or harmful in some way.

Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Earthquake Fault Zone: A seismic hazard zone designated by the State of California within which specialized geologic investigations must be prepared prior to approval of certain new development.

Ambient: Surrounding on all sides; used to describe measurements of existing conditions with respect to traffic, noise, air, and other environments.

Aquifer: An underground, water-bearing layer of earth, porous rock, sand, or gravel, through which water can seep or be held in natural storage. Aquifers generally hold sufficient water to be used as a water supply.

Archaeological: Relating to the material remains of past human life, culture, or activities.

Architectural Review: Regulations and procedures requiring the placement and exterior design of structures to be suitable, harmonious, and in keeping with the general appearance, historical character, and/or style of surrounding areas.

Arterial: A major street carrying volumes of relatively high speed traffic from local and collector streets to and from

freeways and other major streets. These streets have controlled intersections and generally provide limited direct access to abutting properties.

Assessment District; Benefit Assessment District: An area within a public agency's boundaries which receives a special benefit from the construction of one or more public facilities. A Benefit Assessment District has no legal life of its own and cannot act by itself. It is strictly a financing mechanism for providing public infrastructure as allowed under the Streets and Highways Code. Bonds may be issued to finance the improvements, subject to repayment by assessments charged against the benefiting properties. Creation of a Benefit Assessment District enables property owners in a specific area to cause the construction of public facilities or to maintain them (for example, a downtown, or the grounds and landscaping of a specific area) by contributing their fair share of the construction and/or installation and operating costs.

Base Flood: A 100-year flood that has a 1% likelihood of occurring in any given year.

Basic Routes: All local roads not designated as Routes of Regional Significance.

Below-Market-Rate (BMR) Housing Unit: Any housing unit specifically priced to be sold or rented to low- or moderate-income households for an amount less than the fair-market value of the unit. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development sets standards for determining which households qualify as "low income" or "moderate income".

Best Available Control Technology (BACT): The most stringent emission limit or control technique that has been

achieved in practice that is applicable to a particular emission source.

Best Management Practices (BMP): The combination of conservation measures, structure, or management practices that reduces or avoids adverse impacts of development on adjoining site's land, water, or waterways, and waterbodies.

Bicycle Lane (Class II facility): A corridor expressly reserved for bicycles, existing on a street or roadway in addition to any lanes for use by motorized vehicles.

Bicycle Path (Class I facility): A paved route not on a street or roadway and expressly reserved for bicycles traversing an otherwise unpaved area. Bicycle paths may parallel roads but typically are separated from them by landscaping.

Bicycle Route (Class III facility): A facility shared with pedestrians and motorists, identified only by signs, and having no pavement markings or lane stripes.

Bikeways: A term that encompasses bicycle lanes, bicycle paths and bicycle routes.

Buffer Zone: An area of land separating two distinct land uses which acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one land use on the other.

Building: Any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls for the housing or enclosure of persons, animals, or property of any kind.

Building, Maximum Height: Shall be measured as the vertical distance to the highest point of the roof top of a flat roof or a mansard roof, or to the average height of a pitched or hipped roof measured from that plane connecting the highest and

lowest portion of the lot abutting and outside the perimeter of the building footprint. Any fill of any depth or composition beneath or abutting the exterior perimeter of any building shall be included in the calculation of height.

Business Services: A subcategory of commercial land use which permits establishments primarily engaged in rendering services to other business establishments on a fee or contract basis; namely, advertising and mailing, building maintenance, personnel and employment services, management and consulting services, protective services, equipment rental and leasing, photo finishing, copying and printing, travel, and similar services.

California Housing Finance Agency (CHFA): A State agency, established by the Housing and Home Finance Act of 1975, which is authorized to sell revenue bonds and generate funds for the development, rehabilitation, and conservation of low- and moderate-income housing.

Capital Costs: The cost of public improvements or facilities and major pieces of equipment (e.g. utility systems, major roads, communication facilities, and public buildings) that have a useful life of more than three years.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): A program, administered by the City which schedules permanent improvements, usually for a minimum of five years into the future, to fit the projected fiscal capability of the City. The program generally is reviewed annually for conformance to and consistency with the General Plan.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): A colorless, odorless, non-poison gas that is a normal part of the atmosphere.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless, highly poisonous gas produced by automobiles and other machines with internal combustion engines that imperfectly burn fossil fuels such as oil and gas.

Channelization: (1) The straightening and/or deepening of a watercourse for purposes of storm-runoff control or ease of navigation. Channelization often includes lining of stream banks with a retaining material such as concrete. (2) At the intersection of roadways, the directional separation of traffic lanes through the use of curbs or raised islands which limit the paths that vehicles may take through the intersection.

Circulation Element: One of seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the planning and management of existing and proposed thoroughfares and transportation routes correlated with the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

City: City, with a capital “C”, refers to the City of San Ramon; when used with a lower case “c” it means any city.

City Center: A central gathering place including civic, cultural, commercial, and social activities.

Clustered Development: Development in which a number of dwelling units are placed in closer proximity than typically permitted, or are attached, with the purpose of minimizing grading and retaining open space areas.

Collector Street: A street serving traffic movements between arterial and local streets, generally providing direct access to abutting properties.

Colluvium: Loose and incoherent deposits, usually at the foot of a slope or cliff and brought there chiefly by gravity.

Combined Sewer/Combination Sewer: A sewer system that carries both sanitary sewage and storm water runoff.

Commercial: A land use classification which permits facilities for the buying and selling of commodities and services.

Community Care Facility: Senior housing licensed by the State Health and Welfare Agency, Department of Social Services, typically for residents who are frail and need supervision. Services normally include three meals daily, housekeeping, security and emergency response, a full activities program, supervision in the dispensing of medicine, personal services such as assistance in grooming and bathing, but no nursing care. Sometimes referred to as residential care or personal care. (See “Congregate Care.”)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on a formula basis for entitlement communities, and by the State Department of Housing and Community Development for non-entitled jurisdictions.

Community Facilities District: Under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 (Government Code Section 53311, et. seq.), a legislative body may create within its jurisdiction a special district that can issue tax-exempt bonds for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, and/or operation of public facilities, as well as provide public services to district residents. Special tax assessments levied by the district are used to repay the bonds.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL): A 24-hour energy equivalent level derived from a variety of single-noise

events with weighing factors of 5 and 10 dBA applied to the evening (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) periods, respectively, to allow for the greater sensitivity to noise during these hours. (See “Ldn.”)

Community Park: A park or facility developed primarily to meet the requirements of a large portion of the City. The location serves an area within a three-mile radius. The size is generally from six to 60 acres.

Community Redevelopment Agency: A local agency created under California Redevelopment Law, or a local legislative body which has elected to exercise the powers granted to such an agency, for the purpose of planning, developing, re-planning, redesigning, clearing, reconstructing, and/or rehabilitating all or part of a specified area with residential, commercial, industrial, and/or public (including recreational) structures and facilities. The redevelopment agency’s plans must be compatible with adopted community general plans.

Congregate Care: Apartment housing, usually for seniors, in a group setting that includes independent living and sleeping accommodations in conjunction with shared dining and recreational facilities. (See “Community Care Facility.”)

Conservation: The management of natural resources to prevent waste, destruction or neglect.

Consistent: Free from variation or contradiction. Programs in the General Plan are to be consistent, not contradictory or preferential. State law requires consistency between a General Plan and implementation measures such as the Zoning Ordinance.

Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs): A term used to describe restrictive limitations which may be placed on

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property and its use and which usually are made a condition of holding title or lease.

Creek: A natural stream of water normally smaller than and often tributary to a river which may be shown on the City's Ridgeline and Creek Protection Zone Map, dated May 24, 1988.

Cul-de-sac: A short street or alley with only a single means of ingress and egress at one end and with a large turnaround at its other end.

Cumulative Impact: As used in CEQA, the total impact resulting from the accumulated impacts of individual projects or programs over time.

dB: Decibel; a unit used to express the relative intensity of a sound as it is heard by the human ear.

dBA: The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing.

Dedication: The turning over by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the public function for which it will be used.

Dedication, In lieu of: Cash payments which may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land, usually calculated in dollars per lot, and referred to as in lieu fees or in lieu contributions.

Density: The number of residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in the General Plan are expressed in

units per net developable acre. (See "Acres, Gross," and "Acres, Net.")

Density Bonus: The allocation of development rights that allow a parcel to accommodate additional square footage or additional residential units beyond the maximum for which the parcel is zoned, usually in exchange for the provision or preservation of an amenity at the same site or at another location.

Design Review: The comprehensive evaluation of a development and its impact on neighboring properties and the community as a whole, from the standpoint of site and landscape design, architecture, materials, colors, lighting, and signs, in accordance with a set of adopted criteria and standards.

Detention Dam/Basin/Pond: Facilities classified according to the broad function they serve, such as storage, diversion, or detention. Detention dams are constructed to retard flood runoff and minimize the effect of sudden floods.

Developer: An individual who, or business which, prepares raw land for the construction of buildings or builds or causes to be built physical building space for use primarily by others, and in which the preparation of the land or the creation of the building space is in itself a business and is not incidental to another business or activity.

Development: The physical extension and/or construction of urban land uses. Development activities include but are not limited to: subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetation cover (with the

exception of agricultural activities). Routine repair and maintenance activities are not considered as “development.”

Development Fee: See “Impact Fee.”

Development Rights: The right to develop land by a landowner who maintains fee-simple ownership over the land or by a party other than the owner who has obtained the rights to develop. Such rights usually are expressed in terms of density allowed under existing zoning. For example, one development right may equal one unit of housing or may equal a specific number of square feet of gross floor area in one or more specified zone districts.

Dwelling Unit: One or more rooms with a single kitchen, designed for occupancy by one family for living and sleeping purposes.

Easement: The right to use property owned by another for specific purposes or to gain access to another property.

Easement, Conservation: A tool for acquiring open space with less than full-fee purchase, whereby a public agency buys only certain specific rights from the land owner. These may be positive rights (providing the public with the opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, or ride over the land) or they may be restrictive rights (limiting the uses to which the land owner may devote the land in the future).

Easement, Scenic: A tool that allows a public agency to use land for scenic enhancement, such as roadside landscaping or vista preservation.

Emission Standard: The maximum amount of pollutant legally permitted to be discharged from a single source, either mobile or stationary.

Endangered Species: A species of animal or plant whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A report that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action.

Erosion: The loosening and transportation of rock and soil debris by wind, rain, or running water.

Exaction: A contribution or payment required as an authorized precondition for receiving a development permit; usually refers to mandatory dedication (or fee in lieu of dedication) requirements found in many subdivision regulations.

Expansive Soils: Soils which swell when they absorb water and shrink as they dry.

Family: An individual or a group of persons living together who constitute a housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit, not including a fraternity, sorority, club, or other group of persons occupying a hotel, lodging house or institution of any kind.

Fault: A fracture in the earth’s crust forming a boundary between rock masses that have shifted. An “active” fault is one that has had surface displacement within Holocene time (about the last 11,000 years). A “potentially active” fault is one that shows evidence of surface displacement during Quaternary time (the last 2 million years).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): A federal agency that provides disaster relief when cities, counties, or the State cannot respond.

Finding(s): The result(s) of an investigation and the basis upon which decisions are made. Findings are used by government agencies and bodies to justify action taken by the entity.

Fire-resistive: Able to withstand specified temperatures for a certain period of time, such as a one-hour fire wall; not fireproof.

Fiscal Year (FY): A twelve-month period used for accounting purposes by public and private entities. A fiscal year may have different beginning and ending dates than the calendar year. San Ramon uses a fiscal year that begins July 1 in one calendar year and ends June 30 of the following calendar year. Therefore, San Ramon's fiscal year is designated by a name that includes two calendar years; for example, FY 2000-2001 would be the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000 and ending June 30, 2001.

Flood, 100-Year: The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or 1%, chance of occurring in any given year.

Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM): For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the premium risk zones applicable to that community.

Flood Plain: The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding. That part of the flood plain subject to a one percent chance of flooding in any given year, is designated as an area of special flood hazard by the Federal Insurance Administration.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR): The net floor area of a building or buildings on a lot divided by the lot area or site area.

Gateway: A point along a roadway at which a motorist gains a sense of having left one destination and of having arrived at a new and distinct destination.

Geologic Review: The analysis of geologic hazards, including all potential seismic hazards, surface ruptures, liquefaction, landsliding, mudsliding, and the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

Geological: Pertaining to rock or solid matter.

Granny Flat: (See "Second Unit.")

Grasslands: Land reserved for pasturing or mowing, in which grasses are the predominant vegetation.

Groundwater: Water under the earth's surface, often confined to aquifers capable of supplying wells and springs.

Groundwater Recharge: The natural process of infiltration and percolation of rainwater from land areas or streams through permeable soils into water-holding rocks which provide underground storage ("aquifers").

Group Quarters: A residential living arrangement, other than the usual house, apartment, or mobile home, in which two or more unrelated persons share living quarters and cooking facilities.

Growth Management: The use by a community of a wide range of techniques that direct the amount, type, rate, and location of development desired by the community. Growth management policies can be implemented through growth rates, zoning, capital improvement programs, public facilities ordinances, urban limit lines, standards for levels of service, and other programs.

Guidelines: General statements of policy direction for which specific details may be later established.

Habitat: The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): A program that is designed to extend protection provided for endangered species to all sensitive habitat in the Planning Area particularly Bollinger Canyon and on the Westside.

Handicapped: A person determined to have a mobility impairment or mental disorder expected to be of long or indefinite duration. Many such impairments or disorders are of such a nature that a person's ability to live independently can be improved by appropriate housing conditions.

Hazardous Material: Any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV): Any vehicle other than a driver-only automobile (e.g., a vanpool, a bus, or two or more persons to a car).

Hillside: Land which is part of a hill between the summit and the foot with slopes of 10% or more.

Hillslope: Hillside.

Hilltop: Land which is the highest elevation at the crest of a hill.

Home Occupation: A commercial activity conducted solely by the occupants of a particular dwelling unit in a manner incidental to residential occupancy.

Household: All those persons, related or unrelated, who occupy a single housing unit. (See "Family.")

Housing Element: One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it assesses the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, identifies potential sites adequate to provide the amount and kind of housing needed, and contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Under State law, Housing Elements must be updated every five years.

Housing Unit: The place of permanent or customary abode of a person or family. A housing unit may be a single-family dwelling, a multi-family dwelling, a condominium, a modular home, a mobile home, a cooperative, or any other residential unit considered real property under State law.

Impact: The effect of any man-made actions or indirect repercussions of man-made actions on existing physical, social, or economic conditions.

Impact Fee: A fee, also called a development fee, levied on the developer of a project by a city, county, or other public agency as compensation for otherwise-unmitigated impacts the project will produce. California Government Code § 54990 specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions on use of the fund.

Impervious Surface: Surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as roof, road, sidewalk, and paved parking lot. The amount of impervious surface increases with development and establishes the need for drainage facilities to carry the increased runoff.

Implementation: Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

Improvement: The addition of one or more structures or utilities on a vacant parcel of land.

Income Categories: The income limits for each income group are as follows:

1. Very Low: A household with an annual income usually no greater than 50% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Section 8 housing program.
2. Low: A household with an annual income usually no greater than 80% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
3. Moderate: A household with an annual income between the lower income eligibility limits and 120% of the area median family income adjusted by household size, usually

as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

4. Above-Moderate: A household with an annual income above 120% of the County's area median family income adjusted by household size, as determined by a survey of incomes conducted by a city or a county, or in the absence of such a survey, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Section 8 housing program.

Industrial: The manufacture, production, and processing of consumer goods. Industrial is often divided into "heavy industrial" uses, such as construction yards, quarrying, and factories and "light industrial" uses, such as research and development and less intensive warehousing and manufacturing.

Infill Development: Development of vacant land (usually individual lots or left-over properties) within areas which are already largely developed.

Infrastructure: Public services and facilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water-supply systems, other utility systems, and roads.

In Lieu Fee: (See "Dedication, In lieu of.")

Institutional Use: (1) Privately owned and operated activities which are institutional in nature, such as hospitals, museums, and schools; (2) churches and other religious institutions; and (3) other nonprofit activities of an education, youth, welfare, or philanthropic nature which cannot be considered a residential, commercial, or industrial activity. These uses in San Ramon are often referred to as "Public/Semipublic."

Intermittent Stream: A stream that normally flows for at least 30 days after the last major rain of the season and is dry a large part of the year.

Landmark: A building, site, object, structure, or significant tree, having historical, architectural, social, or cultural significance and marked for preservation by the local, State, or federal government. A visually prominent or outstanding structure or natural feature that functions as a point of orientation or identification.

Landscaping: Planting, including trees, shrubs, and ground covers, suitably designed, selected, installed, and maintained permanently to enhance a site or roadway.

Landslide: A general term for a falling mass of soil or rocks.

Land Use: The occupation or utilization of land or water area for any human activity or any purpose defined in the General Plan.

Ldn: Day-Night Average Sound Level. The A-weighted average sound level for a given area (measured in decibels) during a 24-hour period with a 10 dB weighing applied to night-time sound levels. The Ldn is approximately numerically equal to the CNEL for most environmental settings.

Lease: A contractual agreement by which an owner of real property (the lessor) gives the right of possession to another (a lessee) for a specified period of time (term) and for a specified consideration (rent).

Leq: The energy equivalent level, defined as the average sound level on the basis of sound energy (or sound pressure squared). The Leq is a “dosage” type measure and is the basis

for the descriptions used in current standards, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.

Level of Service (LOS): A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream, as perceived by motorists. The conditions are generally described in terms of factors such as speed, delay, freedom to maneuver, comfort, convenience, and safety. Six levels of service are defined with letter designations from A to F, with A representing the optimal condition and F representing the worst.

Level of Service A: Represents free flowing traffic and with little or no limitation on vehicle movement or speed with most vehicles arriving at a signal during the green phase.

Linkage Fee: A program designed to offset the impact of employment on housing needs within a community, whereby project approval is conditioned on the provision of housing units or the payment of an equivalent in-lieu fee is a condition of project approval. The linkage program must establish the cause-and-effect relationship between a new commercial or industrial development and the increased demand for housing.

Liquefaction: The transformation of loose, water-saturated, granular materials (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state. A type of ground failure that can occur during an earthquake.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo): A commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts, and the merger of districts with cities. Each county’s LAFCo is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals. LAFCo members generally include

two county supervisors, two city council members, and one member representing the general public.

Local Street: A street which primarily serves as access to abutting properties characterized by traffic with low speeds, low volumes and relatively short trip lengths.

Lot: (See “Site.”)

Manufactured Housing: Houses which are constructed entirely in the factory, and which since 1976 have been regulated by the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards under the administration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (See “Mobile Home” and “Modular Unit.”)

Median Income; Area Median Income: As used in State of California housing law with respect to income eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. “Area” means metropolitan area or non-metropolitan county.

Median Strip: The dividing area, either paved or landscaped, between opposing lanes of traffic on a roadway.

Mitigation: A specific action taken to reduce environmental impacts. Mitigation measures are required as a component of an environmental impact report (EIR) if significant measures are identified.

Mitigation Measures: Action taken to avoid, minimize, or eliminate environmental impacts. Mitigation includes: avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring

the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance during the life of the action; and compensating for the impact by repairing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Mixed-use: Properties on which various uses, such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential, are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design.

Mobile Home: A structure, transportable in one or more sections, built on a permanent chassis and designed for use as a single-family dwelling unit and which (1) has a minimum of 400 square feet of living space; (2) has a minimum width in excess of 102 inches; (3) is connected to all available permanent utilities; and (4) is tied down (a) to a permanent foundation on a lot either owned or leased by the homeowner or (b) is set on piers, with wheels removed and skirted, in a mobile home park under a lease with a minimum period of one year. (See “Manufactured Housing” and “Modular Unit.”)

Modular Unit: A factory-fabricated, transportable building or major component designed for use by itself or for incorporation with similar units on-site into a structure for residential, commercial, educational, or industrial use. A modular unit does not have any chassis for future movement. (See “Mobile Home” and “Manufactured Housing.”)

Motel: A structure in which there are five or more guest rooms or suites where lodging with or without meals is provided for compensation. Quite often provision is made for cooking in individual guest rooms or suites. (See “Hotel.”)

National Ambient Air Quality Standards: The prescribed level of pollutants in the outside air that cannot be exceeded legally during a specified time in a specified geographical area.

National Flood Insurance Program: A federal program which authorizes the sale of federally subsidized flood insurance in communities where such flood insurance is not available privately.

National Historic Preservation Act: A 1966 federal law that established a National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and which authorized grants-in-aid for preserving historic properties.

National Register of Historic Places: The official list, established by the National Historic Preservation Act, of sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects significant in the nation's history or whose artistic or architectural value is unique.

Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP): A plan that identifies sensitive habitats within a rural development area and directs the preparation of a program to mitigate the impacts of rural development on the habitats.

Neighborhood Park: A park or playground developed primarily to serve the recreation needs of a small portion of the City. The location serves the area within one half mile radius of the park. The park improvements are usually oriented toward the recreation needs of children. The site is generally from two to ten acres depending on the nature of the service area.

Net Present Value (NPV): A future dollar amount discounted to a dollar amount of the value current in Fiscal Year 2000-2001. (See definition of fiscal year.) Discounting reflects the fact that a

dollar in hand is worth more than a dollar anticipated at some future time.

Nitrogen Oxide(s): A reddish brown gas that is a byproduct of combustion and ozone formation processes. Often referred to as NOX, this gas gives smog its "dirty air" appearance.

Noise: Any sound which is undesirable because it interferes with speech and hearing, is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise annoying. Noise is simply "unwanted sound."

Noise Attenuation: Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.

Noise Contour: A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.

Non-attainment: The condition of not achieving a desired or required level of performance and frequently used in reference to air quality.

Non-conforming Use: A use of a structure of land that was lawfully established and maintained, but which does not conform with the use regulations or required conditions for the district in which it is located by reason of adoption or amendment of local ordinance or by reason of annexation of territory to the City.

Office: General business offices, medical and professional offices, administrative offices or headquarters for large wholesaling or manufacturing operations, and research and development. Examples of office use include architectural, computer software consulting, data management, engineering,

interior design, graphic design, real estate, insurance, investment, and legal services.

Open Space: Any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety.

Overlay: A land use designation on the Land Use Map or a zoning designation on a zoning map, which modifies the basic underlying designation in some specific manner.

Ozone: A tri-atomic form of oxygen (O₃) created naturally in the upper atmosphere by a photochemical reaction with solar ultraviolet radiation. In the lower atmosphere, ozone is a recognized air pollutant that is not emitted directly into the environment, but is formed by complex chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and reactive organic compounds in the presence of sunlight, and becomes a major agent in the formation of smog.

Paratransit: Refers to transportation services which operate vehicles, such as buses, jitneys, taxis, and vans, for senior citizens and/or mobility-impaired persons.

Parcel: A lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.

Parking Area, Shared: A public or private parking area used jointly by two or more uses.

Parking Area, Public: An open area, excluding a street or other public way, used for the parking of automobiles and available to the public, whether for free or for compensation.

Parking Ratio: The number of parking spaces provided per gross floor area, gross square feet, or the number of beds or bedrooms in a residence.

Parking Space, Compact: A parking space (8.5 feet wide by 16 feet long when perpendicular to a driveway or aisle) permitted in San Ramon based on the assumption that many modern cars are significantly smaller, and require less room, than a standard automobile.

Parking Space Standards: A standard parking space, when perpendicular to a driveway or aisle, is usually nine feet wide by 19 feet long.

Parking Space, Handicapped: A handicap parking space is usually 17 feet wide and 19 feet long.

Parks: Open space lands whose primary purpose is recreation. (See “Community Park” and “Neighborhood Park.”)

Peak Hour/Peak Period: For any given roadway, a daily period during which traffic volume is highest, usually occurring in the morning and evening commute periods. Where “F” Levels of Service are encountered, the “peak hour” may stretch into a “peak period” of several hours duration.

Performance Standards: Zoning regulations that permit uses based on a particular set of standards of operation rather than on particular type of use. Performance standards provide specific criteria limiting noise, air pollution, emissions, odors, vibration, dust, dirt, heat, fire hazards, wastes, traffic impacts, and visual impact of a use.

Personal Services: Services of a recurrently needed personal nature. This includes, but is not limited to, barber and beauty shops, massage, tanning, seamstress, tailors, shoe and luggage

repair, dry cleaning agencies (excluding plants), photo-copying, and self-service laundries.

Planning Area: The land area addressed by the General Plan, including that within the City Limits and that beyond the City Limits but within the Sphere of Influence boundary. San Ramon's Planning Area boundary is coterminous with its Sphere of Influence boundary.

Policy: A specific statement of principle or of guiding or implementing actions which implies clear commitment.

Pollutant: Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for its normal or usual purpose.

Pollution: The presence of matter or energy whose nature, location, or quantity produces undesired environmental effects.

Preserve: An area in which beneficial uses in their present condition are protected, such as, a nature preserve or an agricultural preserve.

Professional Offices: Buildings providing offices for professional or consulting services in the fields of law, medicine, architecture, design, engineering, accounting, and similar professions, but not including financial institutions or real estate or insurance offices.

Public and Semi-public Facilities: Institutional, academic, governmental and community service uses, either publicly owned or operated by non-profit organizations.

Rare or Endangered Species: A species of animal or plant listed in Title 14, California Administrative Code; Section 670.2 or 670.5, or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations,

Section 17.11 or 17.2, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act designating species as rare, threatened, or endangered.

Reclamation: The reuse of resources, usually those present in solid wastes or sewage.

Recreation, Active: A type of recreation or activity which requires the use of organized play areas including, but not limited to, softball, baseball, football, and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts and various forms of children's play equipment.

Recreation, Passive: Type of recreation or activity which does not require the use of organized play areas.

Recycle: The process of extraction and reuse of materials from waste products.

Redevelopment (public): New or replacement development undertaken to reduce or eliminate blighted conditions and to encourage private investment in designated "redevelopment project areas." In California, public redevelopment is funded largely through the sale of bonds, with the retirement of the bonded debt paid for by the increases in real property taxes on project area lands resulting from improvements prompted by the combination of public and private reinvestment in the area. Redevelopment can be financed completely independently of a city's General Fund operating revenues, but cities may allocate some operating revenues to assist redevelopment and/or target operating revenues to focus on redevelopment areas. Redevelopment may also be spurred by grants from Federal and State governments and sometimes private sources.

Regional: Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction and affecting a broad homogeneous area.

Regional Park: A park which has been developed with a wide range of improvements usually not found in local community or neighborhood facilities to meet the needs of the entire City population. The location serves an area within a 30-minute driving time radius and the size is generally larger than 75 acres.

Residential: Land designated in the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance for buildings consisting of dwelling units. May be vacant or unimproved. (See “Dwelling Unit.”)

Residential, Multiple-Family: Usually three or more dwelling units on a single site, which may be in the same or separate buildings.

Residential, Single-Family: A single dwelling unit on a building site.

Resource Conservation Overlay District (RCOD): A district established to provide a means of conserving an area’s distinctive atmosphere or character by protecting or enhancing its significant attributes. As required by Ordinance 197, the RCOD restricts development adjacent to ridgelines, on steep slopes, and along creek corridors. It intends to preserve ridgelines and stream protection zones.

Richter Scale: A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic, meaning that the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.

Rideshare: A travel mode other than driving alone, such as buses, rail transit, carpools, and vanpools.

Ridge: An elongated crest or series of crests of a hill.

Ridgeline: A ground line located at the highest elevation of and running parallel to the long axis of the ridge.

Ridge Centerline: Ridgelines shown on the Ridgeline and Creek Protection Zone Map, unless the San Ramon Planning Commission approves a more precise delineation, based on topographic maps with contours of land shown at intervals of not more than ten feet.

Right-of-way: The strip of land over which certain transportation and public use facilities are built, such as roadways, railroads, and utility lines.

Riparian Lands: Lands which are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near fresh water.

Riparian Vegetation: Vegetation associated with any water-course which requires or tolerates moisture in excess of that available in adjacent uplands.

Routes of Regional Significance: Roadways which generally serve as a means of travel across Contra Costa County, or between Contra Costa County and adjacent counties.

Runoff: That portion of rain or snow which does not percolate into the ground and is discharged into streams instead.

Sanitary Sewer: A system of subterranean conduits which carries refuse liquids or waste matter to a plant where the sewage is treated, as contrasted with storm drainage systems (which carry surface water) and septic tanks or leech fields (which hold refuse liquids and waste matter on-site). (See “Combined Sewer” and “Septic System.”.)

Scenic Highway Corridor: The visible area outside of a highway’s right-of-way, generally described as “the view from the road.”

Scenic Highway/Scenic Route: A highway, road, or street which, in addition to its transportation function, provides opportunities for the enjoyment of natural and man-made scenic resources and access or direct views to areas or scenes of exceptional beauty or historic or cultural interest. The aesthetic values of scenic routes often are protected and enhanced by regulations governing the development of property or the placement of outdoor advertising. Until the mid-1980s, general plans in California were required to include a Scenic Highways Element.

School District Lands: Properties owned by public school districts and used for educational, recreational, and administrative purposes.

School Park: Land owned by a school district and designated under special agreement with the City’s Parks and Community Services Department for joint development, operation, or maintenance by both agencies to meet recreation needs of the general public as well as that of school students.

Second Unit: A self-contained living unit, either attached to or detached from, and in addition to, the primary residential unit on a single lot and sometimes called “Granny Flat”.

Section 8 Rental Assistance Program: A federal (HUD) rent-subsidy program which is the main source of federal housing assistance for low-income households. The program operates by providing “housing assistance payments” to owners, developers, and public housing agencies to make up the difference between the “Fair Market Rent” of a unit (set by HUD) and the household’s contribution toward the rent, which is calculated at 30% of the household’s adjusted gross monthly income. “Section 8” includes programs for new construction, existing housing, and substantial or moderate housing rehabilitation.

Seismic: Caused by or subject to earthquakes or earth vibrations.

Senior Housing: Typically one- and two-bedroom apartments designed to meet the needs of persons 62 years of age and older or, if more than 150 units, persons 55 years of age and older, and restricted to occupancy by them. (See “Congregate Care.”)

Seniors: Persons age 60 and older.

Septic System: A sewage-treatment system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. Septic systems are often used for individual-home waste disposal where an urban sewer system is not available. (See “Sanitary Sewer.”)

Setback Line: A line within a lot parallel to a corresponding lot line, which is the boundary of any specified front, side, corner side or rear yard, or the boundary of any public right-of-way whether acquired in fee, easement or otherwise, or a line otherwise established to govern the location of buildings, structures or uses. Where no minimum front, side, corner

side, or rear yards are specified, the setback line shall be coterminous with the corresponding lot line. The line is a horizontal distance measured from the respective property line.

Settlement: The drop in elevation of a ground surface caused by settling or compacting. Differential settlement is uneven settlement.

Shared Living: The occupancy of a dwelling unit by persons of more than one family in order to reduce housing expenses and provide social contact, mutual support, and assistance.

Shopping Center: A group of commercial establishments, planned, developed, owned, or managed as a unit, with off-street parking provided on the site.

Sign: Any representation (written or pictorial) used to identify, announce, or otherwise direct attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment, and placed on, suspended from, or in any way attached to, any structure, vehicle, or feature of the natural or manmade landscape.

Significant Effect: A beneficial or detrimental impact on the environment. May include, but is not limited to, significant changes in an area's air, water, and land resources.

Siltation: (1) The accumulating deposition of eroded material, or (2) the gradual filling in of streams and other bodies of water with sand, silt, and clay.

Single-family Dwelling, Attached: A building containing two dwelling units with each unit having its own foundation on grade.

Single-family Dwelling, Detached: A building containing one dwelling unit on one lot.

Site: A parcel of land used or intended for one use or a group of uses and having frontage on a public or an approved private street. A lot.

Slope: Land gradient described as the vertical rise divided by the horizontal run, and expressed in percent.

Soil: The unconsolidated material on the immediate surface of the earth created by natural forces that serves as the natural medium for growing land plants.

Solid Waste: Any unwanted or discarded material that is not a liquid or gas. Includes organic wastes, paper products, metals, glass, plastics, cloth, brick, rock, soil, leather, rubber, yard wastes, and wood. Organic wastes and paper products comprise about 75% of typical urban solid waste.

Special Needs Groups: As per State law, the needs of six groups need to be addressed in the housing element. These include homeless persons, female-headed households, farm workers, senior citizens, disabled persons, and large families (five or more people). These six groups have been identified as having needs that would not normally be met.

Special Recreation Areas/Facilities: Public or private lands and/or facilities leased to the City and/or operated by the Parks and Community Services Department to meet public recreation needs. Recreation opportunities are generally limited and may have permit or other restrictions on their use. No standard for this type of facility has been established.

Specific Plan: A plan that provides detailed design and implementation tools for a specific portion of the area covered

by a general plan. A specific plan may include all regulations, conditions, programs, and/or proposed legislation which may be necessary or convenient for the systematic implementation of any general plan element(s).

Sphere of Influence: The probable ultimate physical boundary and service area of a local agency (city or district) as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) of the County.

Staging Area: A park facility developed with minimal recreation facilities that provides access to open or natural areas for hiking and equestrian uses. These areas may be developed in conjunction with other park facilities.

Storm Runoff: Surplus surface water generated by rainfall that does not seep into the earth but flows overland to flowing or stagnant bodies of water. Also referred to as “urban runoff.”

Street Furniture: Those features associated with a street that are intended to enhance that street’s physical character and are for pedestrian use, such as benches, trash receptacles, kiosks, lights, and newspaper racks.

Structure: Anything constructed or erected which requires a location on the ground, including a building or a swimming pool, but not including a fence or a wall used as a fence, if the height does not exceed six feet, or access drives or walks.

Subdivision: The division of a tract of land into defined lots, either improved or unimproved, which can be separately conveyed by sale or lease, and which can be altered or developed. Subdivision includes a condominium project as defined in Section 1350 of the California Civil Code.

Subsidence: The gradual sinking of land as a result of natural or artificial causes. (See “Settlement.”)

Substandard Housing: Residential dwellings which, because of their physical condition, do not provide safe and sanitary housing.

Tax Increment: Additional tax revenues that result from increases in property values within a redevelopment area. State law permits the tax increment to be earmarked for redevelopment purposes but requires at least 20% to be used to increase the supply of very low- and low-income housing.

Traffic Demand Forecasting Model: A mathematical representation of traffic movement within an area or region based on observed relationships between the kind and intensity of development in specific areas. Many traffic models operate on the theory that trips are produced by persons living in residential areas and are attracted by various non-residential land uses. (See “Trip.”)

Transit: The conveyance of persons or goods from one place to another by means of a local, public transportation system. (See “Transit, Public.”)

Transit-dependent: Refers to persons unable to operate automobiles or other motorized vehicles, or those who do not have access to or own motorized vehicles. Transit-dependent citizens must rely on transit, Para-transit, or owners of private vehicles for transportation. Transit-dependent citizens may include the young, the elderly, and the poor.

Transit, Public: A system of regularly-scheduled buses and/or trains available to the public on a fee-per-ride basis. Also called “Mass Transit.”

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): A strategy for reducing demand on the road system by reducing the number of vehicles using the roadways and/or increasing the number of persons per vehicle. TDM attempts to: (1) reduce the number of persons per vehicle; (2) reduce the number of persons who drive alone on the roadway during the commute period; and (3) increase the use of carpools, vanpools, buses and trains, and walking and biking. TDM can be an element of TSM (see below).

Transportation Systems Management (TSM): A comprehensive strategy developed to address the problems caused by additional development, increasing trips, and a shortfall in transportation capacity. Transportation Systems Management focuses on utilizing existing highway and transit systems more efficiently rather than expanding them. TSM measures are characterized by their low cost and quick implementation time frame, such as computerized traffic signals, metered freeway ramps, and one-way streets.

Trees, Street: Trees strategically planted, usually in medians or along streets, to enhance the visual quality of a street.

Trip: A one-way journey that proceeds from an origin to a destination via a single mode of transportation; the smallest unit of movement considered in transportation studies. Each trip has one “production end” (origin, often from home, but not always), and one “attraction end” (destination). (See “Traffic Demand Forecasting Model.”)

Trip Generation: The dynamics that account for people making trips in automobiles or by means of public transportation. Trip generation is the basis for estimating the level of use of a transportation system and the impact of additional development or transportation facilities on an existing, local transportation system. Trip generations of

households are correlated with destinations that attract household members for specific purposes.

Undevelopable: Specific areas where topographic, geologic, and/or surface soil conditions indicate a significant danger to future occupants and a liability to the City, and are thus designated as undevelopable by the City.

Uniform Building Code: A national, standard building code which sets forth minimum standards for construction.

Uniform Housing Code: State housing regulations governing the condition of habitable structures with regard to health and safety standards and which provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of housing in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

Urban Growth Boundary (UGB): The line within which all urban development is to be contained.

Urban Limit Line (ULL): A boundary, sometimes parcel-specific, located to mark the outer limit beyond which urban development will not be allowed. It has the aim of discouraging sprawl by containing development during a specific period. Its location may be modified over time.

Urban Services: Utilities (such as water, gas, electricity, and sewer) and public services (such as police, fire, schools, parks, and recreation) provided to an urban area.

Use: The purpose for which a lot or structure is or may be leased, occupied, maintained, arranged, designed, intended, constructed, erected, moved, altered, and/or enlarged as per the City’s Zoning Ordinance and General Plan land use designation.

Use Permit: The discretionary and conditional review of an activity or function or operation on a site or in a building or facility.

Utility Corridors: Right-of-way or easements for utility lines on either publicly or privately owned property. (See “Right-of-way” or “Easement.”)

Vacant: Lands or buildings which are not actively used for any purpose.

Variance: A departure from any provision of the zoning requirements for a specific parcel, except use, without changing the Zoning Ordinance or the underlying zoning of the parcel. A variance usually is granted only upon demonstration of hardship based on the peculiarity of the property in relation to other properties in the same zoning district.

View Corridor: The line of sight (identified as to height, width, and distance) of an observer looking toward an object that is significant to the community (e.g., ridgeline, river, historic building, etc.); the route that directs the viewer’s attention.

Viewshed: The area within view from a defined observation point.

Volume-to-Capacity Ratio: A measure of the operating capacity of a roadway or intersection, in terms of the number of vehicles that theoretically could pass through when the roadway or intersection is operating at its designed capacity. Abbreviated as v/c . At a v/c ratio of 1.0, the roadway or intersection is operating at capacity. If the ratio is less than 1.0, the traffic facility has additional capacity. Although ratios slightly greater than 1.0 are possible, it is more likely that the

peak hour will elongate into a “peak period.” (See “Peak Hour” and “Level of Service.”)

Warehousing Use: A use engaged in storage, wholesale, and distribution of manufactured products, supplies, and equipment, excluding bulk storage of materials which are inflammable or explosive or which present hazards or conditions commonly recognized as offensive.

Wastewater Irrigation: The process by which wastewater that has undergone appropriate treatment is used to irrigate land.

Watercourse: Natural or once natural flowing (perennially or intermittently) water including rivers, streams, and creeks. Includes natural waterways that have been canalized, but does not include manmade channels, ditches, and underground drainage and sewer systems.

Watershed: The total area above a given point on a watercourse that contributes water to its flow; the entire region drained by a waterway or watercourse which drains into a lake, reservoir, bay or ocean.

Wetlands: Either transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or land that is covered by shallow water.

Williamson Act: Known formally as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, it was designed as an incentive to retain prime agricultural land and open space in agricultural use, thereby slowing its conversion to urban and suburban development. The program entails a ten-year contract between an owner of land and (usually) a county whereby the land is taxed on the basis of its agricultural use rather than the market value. The land becomes subject to certain enforceable

restrictions, and certain conditions need to be met prior to approval of an agreement.

Workforce Housing: (See “Affordable Housing”).

Zero Lot Line: A detached single-family unit distinguished by the location of one exterior wall on a side property line.

Zone, Interim: A zoning designation that temporarily reduces or freezes allowable development in an area until a permanent classification can be fixed; generally assigned during general plan preparation to provide a basis for permanent zoning.

Zone, Traffic: In a traffic model, land areas are divided into zones, with each zone treated as producing and attracting trips. The production of trips by a zone is based on the number of trips to or from work or shopping, or other trips produced per dwelling unit.

Zoning: The division of a city by legislative regulations into areas, or zones, which specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings within these areas; a program that implements policies of the General Plan.

Zoning District: A designated section of the City for which prescribed land use requirements and building and development standards are uniform.

Zoning, Incentive: The awarding of bonus credits to a development in the form of allowing more intensive use of land if public benefits, such as preservation of greater-than-the-minimum required open space, provision for low- and moderate-income housing, or plans for public plazas and courts at ground level, are included in the project.

Zoning, Inclusionary: Regulations which increase housing choice by providing the opportunity to construct more diverse and economical housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income families. Often such regulations require a minimum percentage of housing for low- and moderate-income households in new housing developments and in conversions of apartments to condominiums.